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SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PHUM](#) [KPAL](#) [WEBZ](#) [OA](#) [IS](#)  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS CHAIR: QATAR WILL "POSTPONE" GAZA  
WAR CRIMES CONFERENCE

REF: A. DOHA 089  
[1](#)B. DOHA 42

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(SBU) KEY POINTS  
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-- In a February 10 conversation with Poloff Caudill, National Human Rights Committee Chirman Dr. Ali Said Al-Marri stated that Qatar had decided to postpone the Gaza war crimes conference. The conference had been scheduled to take place February 22-24 in Doha (see ref A).

-- In his conversation with Poloff Caudill, Al-Marri said that the conference would be postponed because some of the Palestinian invitees were unable to attend.

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(SBU) COMMENTS  
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-- The postponement of this conference, which was certain to turn generate widespread publicity in the Arab world, is a significant step back from the radical camp toward which Qatar has moved in recent weeks (see ref B).

-- Embassy recommends that we reciprocate this gesture with a call from Special Envoy Mitchell to Prime Minister Hamad bin Jassim to update him on Senator Mitchell's activities in the region and to solicit Qatari views on the Palestinian-Israeli issue.

End Key Points and Comments.

[1](#)1. (SBU) In a February 10 conversation with Poloff Caudill, National Human Rights Committee Chairman Dr. Ali Said Al-Marri stated that Qatar would "postpone" the Gaza war crimes conference scheduled to take place February 22-24 in Doha.

[1](#)2. (SBU) The postponement came after a February 4 conversation between Ambassador and Al-Marri in which Ambassador urged him to postpone the Conference, given that the U.S.-Islamic World Forum was scheduled for the week preceding it. Ambassador cautioned that it might be difficult for the U.S. to participate in the Forum if Qatar went ahead with the "war crimes" conference as planned. Dr. Al-Marri agreed to consult with his counterparts in the human rights community and report back to Ambassador.

[1](#)3. (SBU) Al-Marri said that the conference would be "postponed" because some of the Palestinian activists who had been invited to the Conference were unable to attend.  
LeBaron